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COUNTRY Hungary

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50X1-HUM

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Chemical Warfare Organization and Training in the Hungarian Army

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Since the introduction of Russian training regulations in the Hungarian Army, a great deal of emphasis is being placed on chemical warfare training. Noncombat officers and EM must also participate in this training.

Chemical warfare training is conducted by the following specialists: a junior staff officer, called the chemical warfare officer (Vegyiharc eloadó) at the regimental level, and a warrant officer (Tiszthelyettes), called anti-chemical warfare technician (Vegyvadelmi mester), at the battalion level.

The chemical warfare officers and the antichemical warfare technicians are trained in courses set up at the Ercsi Engineer Brigade and at the Haros-sziget Engineer School. The courses last 3 months. Officers and warrant of-ficers who serve in chemical warfare units, naturally receive longer and more fundamental training.

Chemical warfare indoctrination is introduced in unit basic training schedules and the curriculum consists of approximately the following:

- 1 -

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S-E-C-R-E-T

1. The history of chemical warfare
2. The types of gases
 - a. Tear gas
 - b. Coughing gas
 - c. Choking gas
 - d. Liquid chemical substances
3. Uses
 - a. Gas blowing
 - b. Gas shelling
 - c. Spraying of gas substances
 - d. Contamination of terrain
4. Recognition

In this aspect of training students must smell substances that smell like gas substances, and they must remain in a tear-gassed area for a longer or shorter period of time.

5. Defense
 - a. Personal or individual defense
 - b. Chemical defense technical unit deployment

Note to a

The gas mask is the most important implement for individual defense. A gas mask of Russian design and manufacture is now standard in the Hungarian army. Gas masks for military purposes are not manufactured in Hungary as yet, although a rubber factory [not identified] manufactures protective masks for miners and chemical workers. These, however, are a different type and have a shorter life.

The Hungarian designation for the Russian gas mask is "M-51." Every gas mask has a registration number as well as a number and letter, enclosed in a square, showing its size. The mask is made entirely of rubber and covers the back of the head, the nape of the neck, and the ears [as well as the face]. The exhalation valve is located at mouth level (szaj magassagban), and the inhalation valve is doubly secured in the upper end of the rubber tube leading to the filter cartridge (szuro betet). The filter cartridge is flat and round and is made from charcoal and feathers and is also provided with other filtering materials of unknown chemical composition. According to the training information, the mask provides complete protection against all presently known war gases. The maximum life [of the cartridge] is 24 hours. The filter cartridge cannot be regenerated but must be exchanged after use.

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

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As protection against liquid war gases, every soldier is provided with an antichemical shroud (gazvedo lepel) which is a square-meter rubber sheet. According to training instructions, in case of a gas alert, the soldier must sit down on the ground, put on his mask, cover himself with the rubber sheet, and cease all movement until the gas alert is over and he hears the signal.

For protection of the individual against liquid gases, each soldier is provided with a packet of chloride of lime powder (chlormesz-puder), and is trained in its use. They are also trained to use vaseline.

The antichemical warfare technician checks the condition of gas masks once every month. Gas alarms are held 2 or 3 times a year.

During field exercises, maneuvers and as long marches as possible are executed with gas masks donned. Occasional violations are punished severely.

Defense against chemical warfare in its larger aspect is not the responsibility of the troops, but of the chemical warfare detachments especially trained for this purpose. In the Hungarian army there are three battalions, two in Ercsi and one in Harossziget. These battalions are trained and equipped to decontaminate terrain and living quarters, to give baths, and to render first aid. Terrain decontamination is carried out by using ordinary sprinkler trucks with spread water mixed with neutralizing chemicals. The dress of the soldiers [of the chemical warfare battalions] is the best protective rubber clothing.

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- 3 -

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